

EPISODE #108
March 24, 1994

The Valley COMIC N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

IS IT ME, OR ARE THESE
POTHOLEES ESPECIALLY
BAD THIS YEAR?...



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BOSTON HERALD

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

BEYOND POLITIX
WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...
WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...
A QUESTION OF BALANCE
PLANET WAVES

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK



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 Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Stop! Don't read this if you're over 35. It's not addressed to you, and would only waste your time. Turn the page. Continue on your way. Come back tomorrow.

Now. It used to be that rock 'n' roll was a foreign language to most of the world, *especially* the world of suits, corporations, and the military-industrial complex. Also the world of parents and other adults who were itching to enforce the status quo. Most of you probably know this already. When Elvis (Presley) first happened, parents hated him. *Hated* him. Likewise, ministers, school principals, scout leaders. And the Beatles were the same way ... as were the psychedelic bands that followed. In fact, from even *before* Elvis, there's always been a core of musicians — rhythm & blues players, folksingers, rock 'n' rollers — who got no truck with the way it's *supposed* to be ... who just want to sing their guts out, and maybe bust up a few icons in the process. *Rebels*, they used to be called.

Still today, as you Generation X-ers know, there's hostility to the music. I myself can't hardly listen to more than a few minutes of any band that cranks the distort to 9 and screams over the top of it. And I've never moshed. I've pogoed, but I've never moshed. Still, I totally respect the right of any musician to upset any apple cart they want. Because what's always been great about rock 'n' roll is its subversiveness. Like a modern newspaper is supposed to (said Finley Peter Dunne), rock 'n' roll comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. In style and substance, the best rock 'n' roll has always said, "*Listen to me; I am the greatest*," and given the rest of the world the finger. Plus, it's a great aphrodisiac.

But there's stuff going on in the rock 'n' roll world today that makes me profoundly sad. It's like the final curtain to a final act that began when Michael Jackson bought the Beatles' songs away from Paul and Yoko, and started selling them to Nike.

During the Super Bowl this year, Sixties legends John Fogerty (Creedence Clearwater Revival) and Country Joe McDonald showed up in a commercial to hype a soft drink, I forget which. During the Winter Olympics, The Band put a song behind Diet Coke. Currently, a Buffalo Springfield song plays behind a Miller beer ad. OK, maybe those guys all went broke through drugging, and they really need the money. Maybe. But then right after the State of the Union speech this January, Coopers & Lybrand — a mega-financial firm — ran an ad that featured Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'".

At first I thought this must have been one of those deals where the record company owns the song (or Michael Jackson does), and the artist has *nada* to say about it. But subsequent research reveals that *Dylan himself* sold the song. Folks, it's one thing to have Paula Abdul or Madonna or MC Hammer shilling for Diet Coke. Or The Gloved One moonwalking for Pepsi. These characters came of age in the 80's, when the dollar was king. And they're *pop* singers; they don't *do* rock n roll. But *Dylan*?? For thirty years, Dylan meant *truth*. Dylan didn't pull no punches. Dylan was the guy with zero jive. Dylan selling a song to a financial firm is like The Butthole Surfers recording an ad for *The Wall Street Journal*. Or picture k.d. lang ... ("Now that I've come out as a lesbian, let me tell you how fresh I feel with Stayfree™ panty liners") ... Or better yet, Juliana Hatfield ("You know, I used to feel suicidal, but since I started chewing Doublemint..."). I mean, Bob Dylan — *does he need the money???*

There's a story that I pray to the Goddess is true: A few years ago (in the 80s) Lee Iacocca ("My ego won't fit in my minivan"), the president of Chrysler, offered Bruce Springsteen \$15 million for "Born in the USA". For a Chrysler commercial. And The Boss said No. *Negatron. Fifteen million bucks!* I think no matter what you think of Springsteen's music, you gotta love him for telling Iacocca to put his dollars where the sun don't shine.

So. I don't know why I'm telling you this. Like I can *do* something about it. I guess I believe it's important to let people know — especially younger people — that there are still some of us who haven't given up ... who think it's important to tell a corporate suit, "I didn't write that song to sell corn flakes." Even though the Reagan revolution has won, and money is everything, I just want you to know, O useful generation, that some of us have not acquiesced.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

Publisher/Editor • Mike Chrisman Founder • David Hooks

Co-Publisher • Izzy Gesell Advertising Director/Co-Publisher • Silvana Gravini

Co-Publisher • Hank Ryan Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, Mass.

Copying • Paradise Copies Ad Production • Bret Kime

2nd-Semester Senior • Siena Chrisman c 1994 The Valley Comic News

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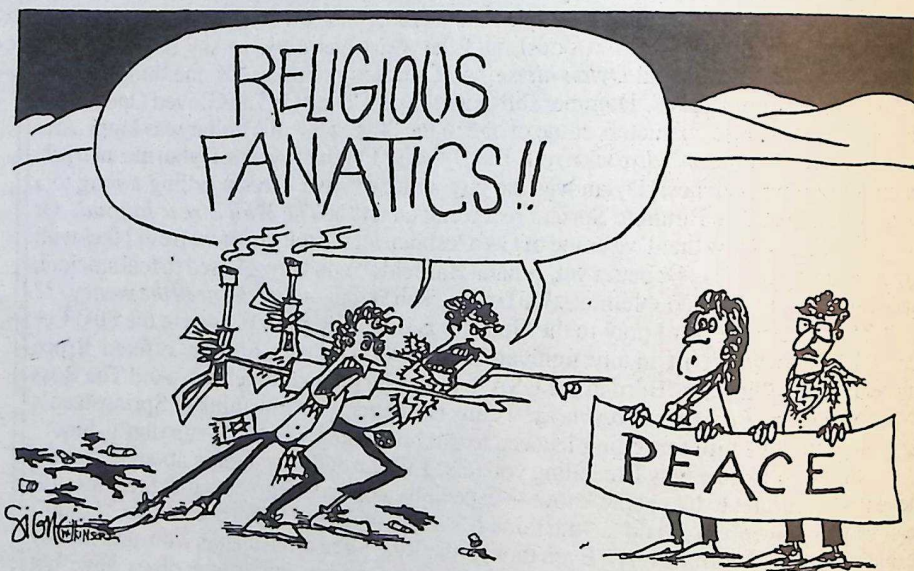
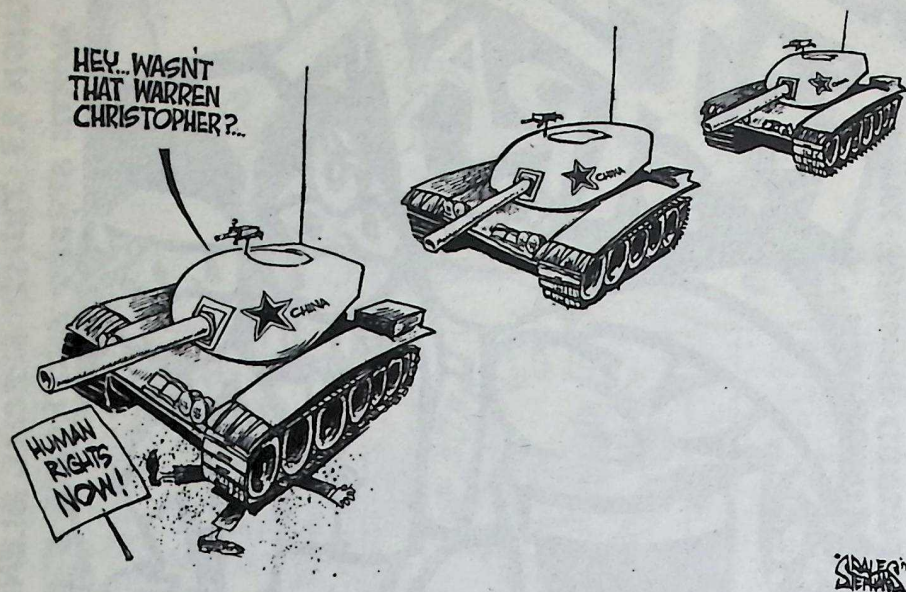


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PLANET WAVES



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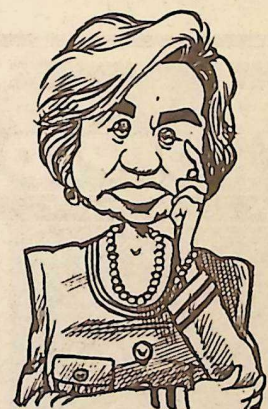
WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...



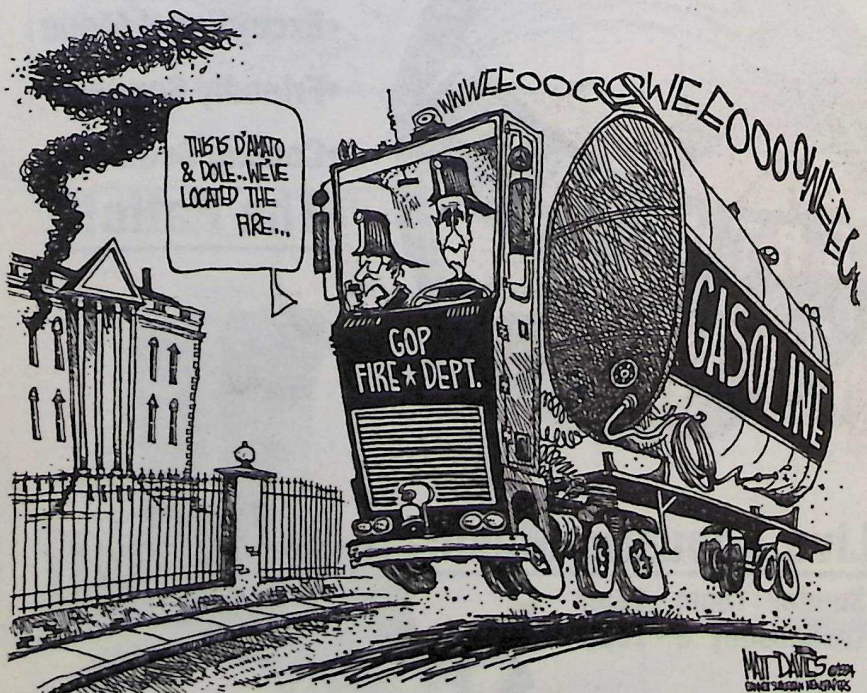
Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



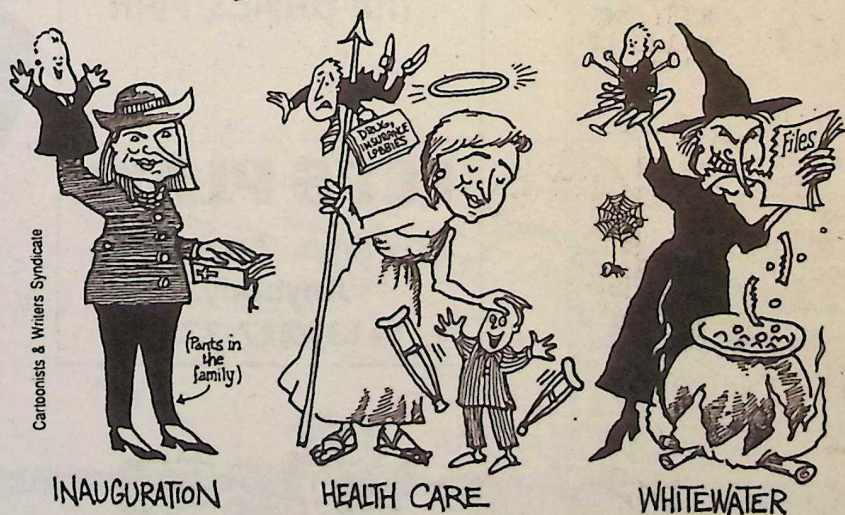
...HMM...MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO GET A HAIRCUT...



DAVE COVERLY



HILLARY--A YEAR IN CARICATURE



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

STEVE KUNTZ

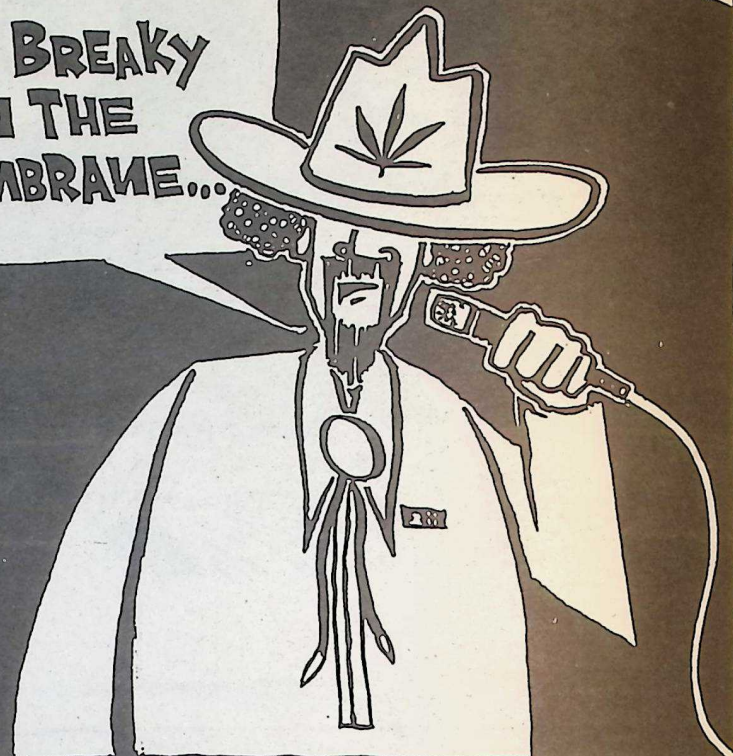
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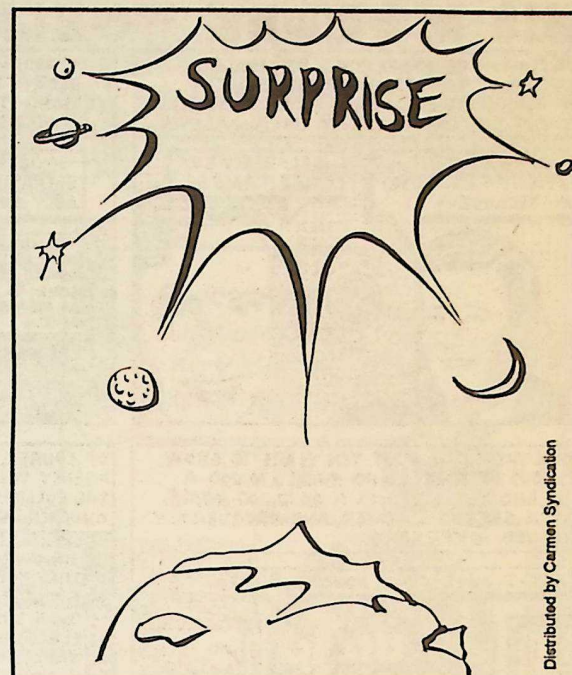
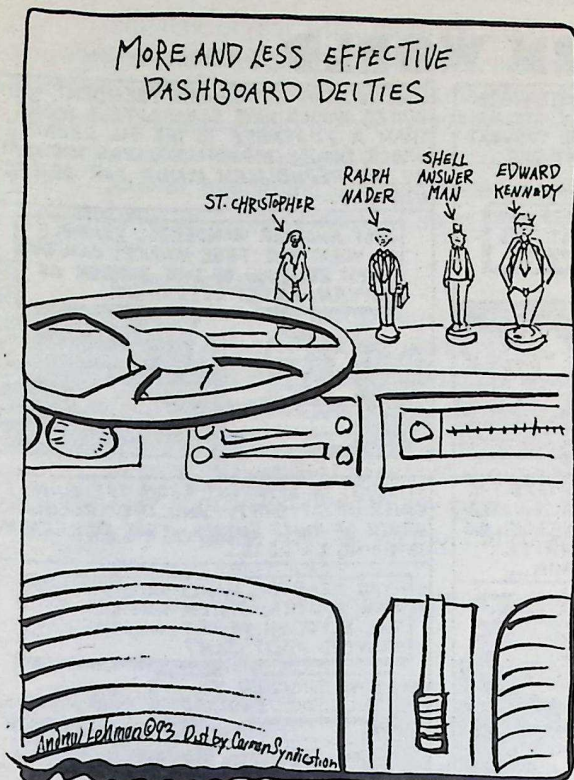
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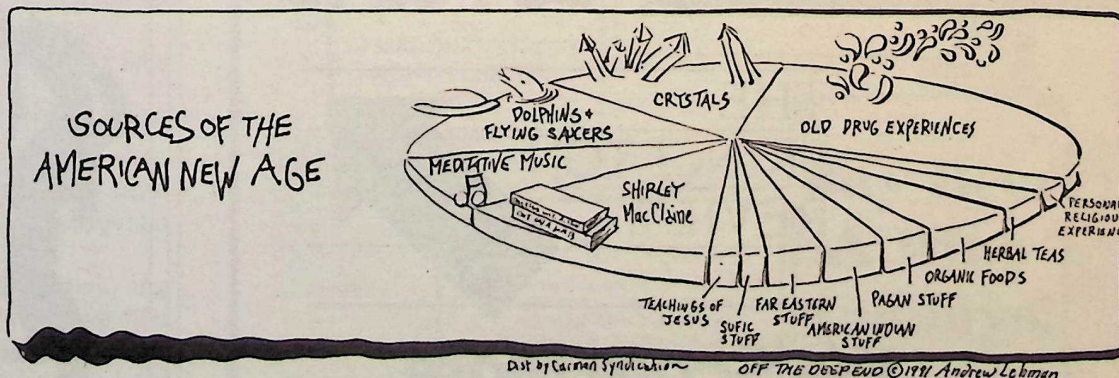
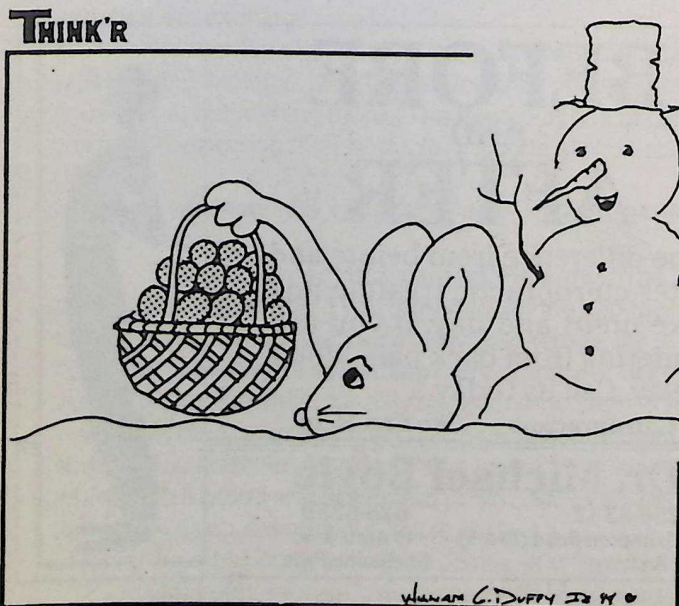
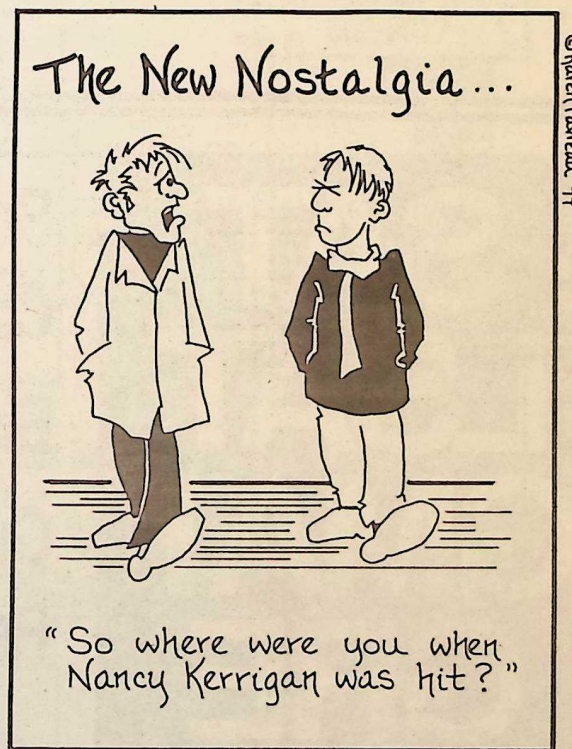
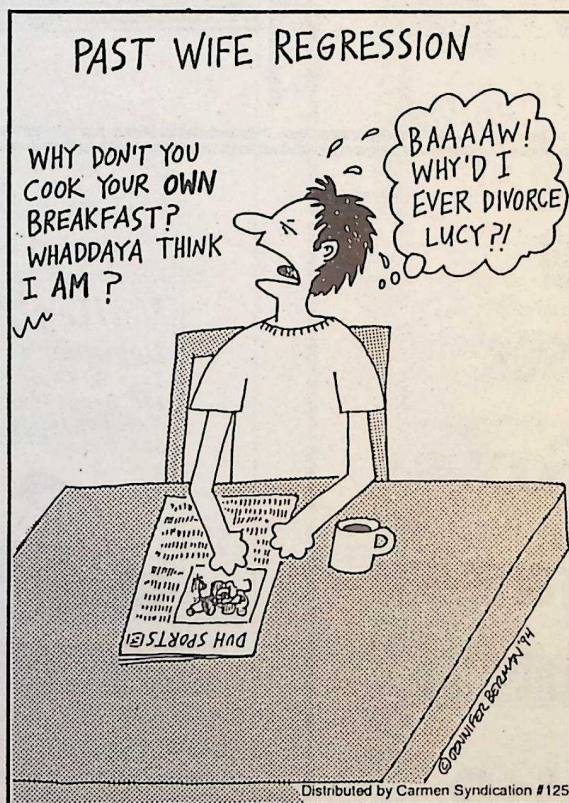
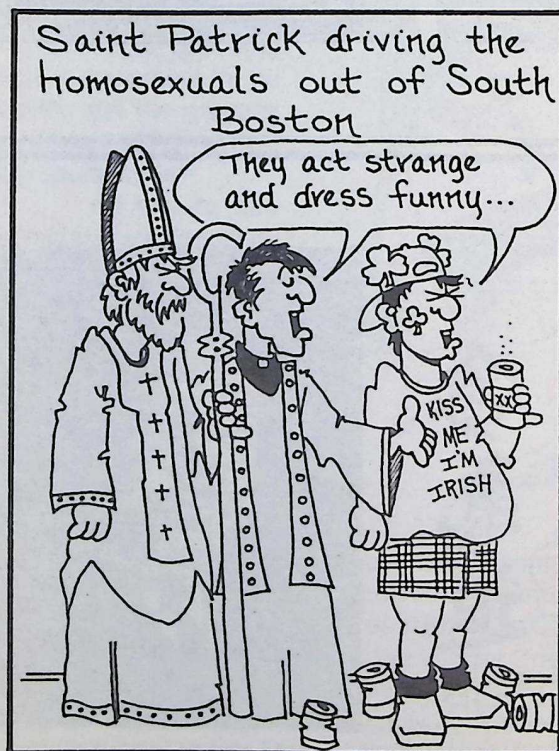
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BEYOND POLITIX



GOD GIVES HIMSELF A DISAPPOINTING SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY ON HIS 15 BILLIONTH BIRTHDAY AND AGAIN WISHES HE DIDN'T KNOW EVERYTHING.



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

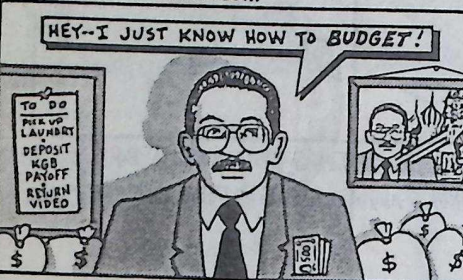
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 03-9-94
POB 170515-SF CA 94117

POLITICIANS ARE PROFESSING **OUTRAGE** AT THE DISCOVERY OF A RUSSIAN SPY IN THE CIA... EVEN THOUGH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES CONCEDE THAT THE CIA CONTINUES TO SPY ON RUSSIA...



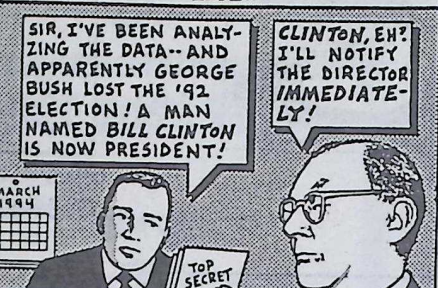
IT TOOK THE CIA ALMOST TEN YEARS TO GROW SUSPICIOUS OF AMES...WHO MADE \$70,000 A YEAR, AND YET LIVED IN A \$540,000 HOME, DROVE A \$65,000 JAGUAR, AND FREQUENTLY TRAVELLED OVERSEAS...



RICK AMES IS ACCUSED OF BETRAYING HIS COUNTRY FOR FINANCIAL GAIN-- BY REVEALING THE NAMES OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHO WERE WORKING FOR THE CIA...



OF COURSE, THIS IS THE SAME INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHICH WAS CAUGHT UNAWARES BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION...AND GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT ELSE...



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 03-9-94

WATERGATE, IRAN-CONTRA AND IRAQGATE WERE ALL ABUSES OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY...ATTEMPTS BY REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS TO SUBVERT THE CONSTITUTION AND CIRCUMVENT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS...



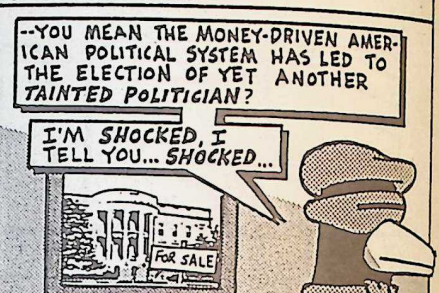
GIVEN THEIR HISTORY, IT'S HARD TO TAKE THE REPUBLICANS TOO SERIOUSLY ON WHITEWATER-- PARTICULARLY BOB DOLE, WHO REVEALED HIS OVER-EXCITABILITY DURING THE WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE BROUHAHA...



HAD CLINTON NOT BECOME PRESIDENT, WHITEWATER WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN A FOOTNOTE TO THE S&L DEBACLE-- WHICH, THOUGH BIPARTISAN, WAS INSTIGATED BY THE REPUBLICAN MANIA FOR DEREGULATION...



STILL-- IT IS APPARENT FROM THE CLUMSY COVER-UP ATTEMPTS--AND THE TROUBLING DEATH OF VINCE FOSTER--THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE...



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JOE BOB BRIGGS

This time of year, when there are 9,000 basketball games a week on TV, you always hear a few guys start complaining about how there's too much money spent on college basketball, and too many players get money under the table, and the NC double-A is too hard on colleges that get caught *paying* players under the table, and the college basketball season interferes with academics, and how just, in general, everything's going to hell for college kids who play basketball. It seems like, the more popular the sport becomes, the *worse* education the kid gets.

This is ridiculous.

We've been having this same debate for — what? — thirty years now? There's a *real* simple solution to this:

Let the kids major in Basketball. Let 'em major in Football and Baseball, too. Let 'em concentrate their entire college careers on being the best athlete they can be.

Instead, we act like they should be *guilty* about playing basketball. We act like they should run over to the gym, get in their practice session, then *immediately* go to the chemistry lab or the library and do the *important stuff*.

This is horse-hockey.

Why are we so *embarrassed* that these skills are taught in college?

Why aren't we *proud* that we teach these skills *so well* that our teams win at the Olympics? Why aren't we proud that we spend so much money on athletics departments that we have the best and safest equipment in the world, and the greatest environment for perfecting sports skills?

I'd like to see somebody start a college that *only* teaches athletics. Somebody who divides the curriculum into Basketball, Football, Baseball, Hockey, Golf, Tennis, Soccer, Track, Field, Swimming, Diving, Cricket, Lacrosse, Chess, Ping Pong, and Curling. Somebody who believes that, for some students, the training of the body, and the competitive spirit, *should be* the most important thing in their lives. They should send out brochures that say, "Come to the American Sports College, where you can train like the ancient Greeks and be proud of yourself." For those who aren't talented enough to make varsity teams, or those who become injured, or those who simply don't want to compete, they could have departments of Sports Management, Weight Training, Facilities Management, Aerobics, Sports Law, Sports Journalism, Sports Broadcasting, and 19 different varieties of coaching.

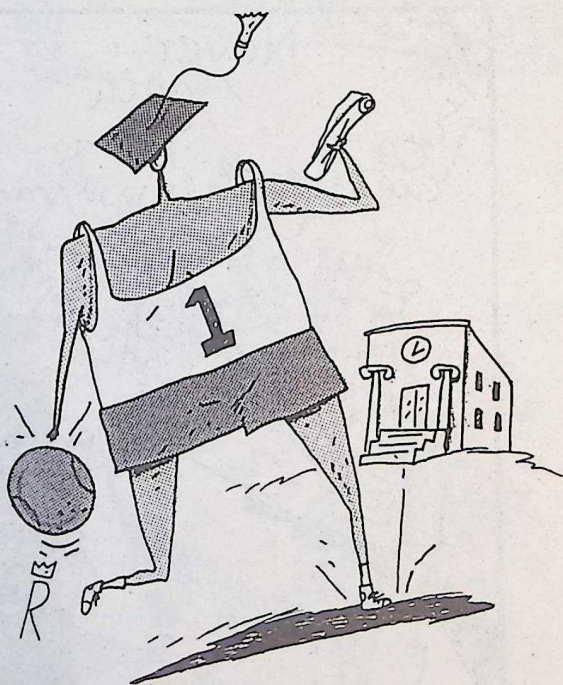
Okay okay okay, they'd have English Literature, too, and they'd have algebra and biology. But these would be minor subjects — a foundation of knowledge, but nothing more. The main purpose of college, for these students, would be perfecting their body, their sports skills, their ability to perform under pressure.

I can hear the objections now. "Wouldn't this make the kid a little unbalanced?"

The kid is *already* unbalanced. He wants to be an athlete. She has *giant* aspirations. What would you rather do, *kill* the aspirations? Why is it that, when somebody says he wants to play basketball for a living, everyone says, "Shouldn't you think of something more practical? But when somebody says she wants to play the violin for a living, everyone says, "Go for it!"

In other words, we should have colleges that say to all the private and state universities in America, "We *reject* your standards. We believe that athletics is a proud and noble thing. We believe it's an art form. And we believe that, even if you devote your whole life to it and you never rise beyond the level of junior high assistant volleyball coach, you've done something *terrific*."

Oh, yeah, I forgot. We already *do* have a school like this. It's called Julliard.



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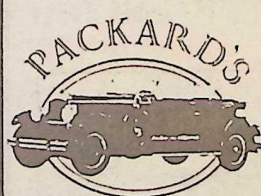
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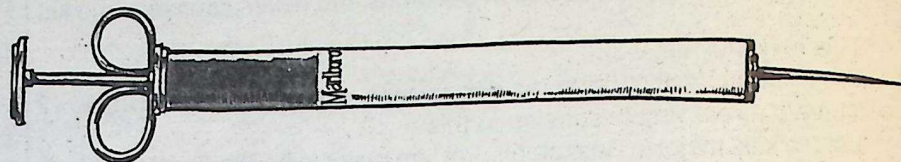
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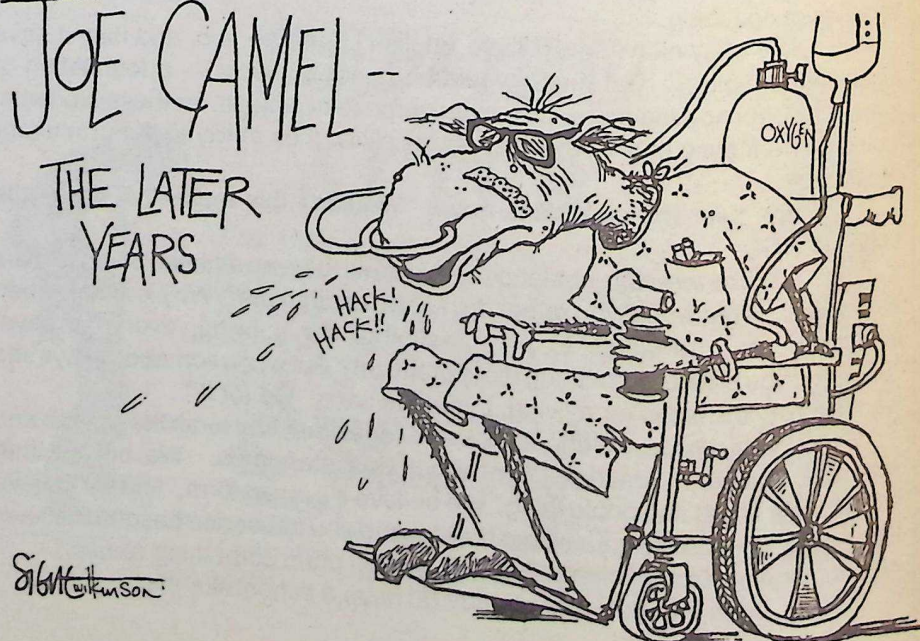
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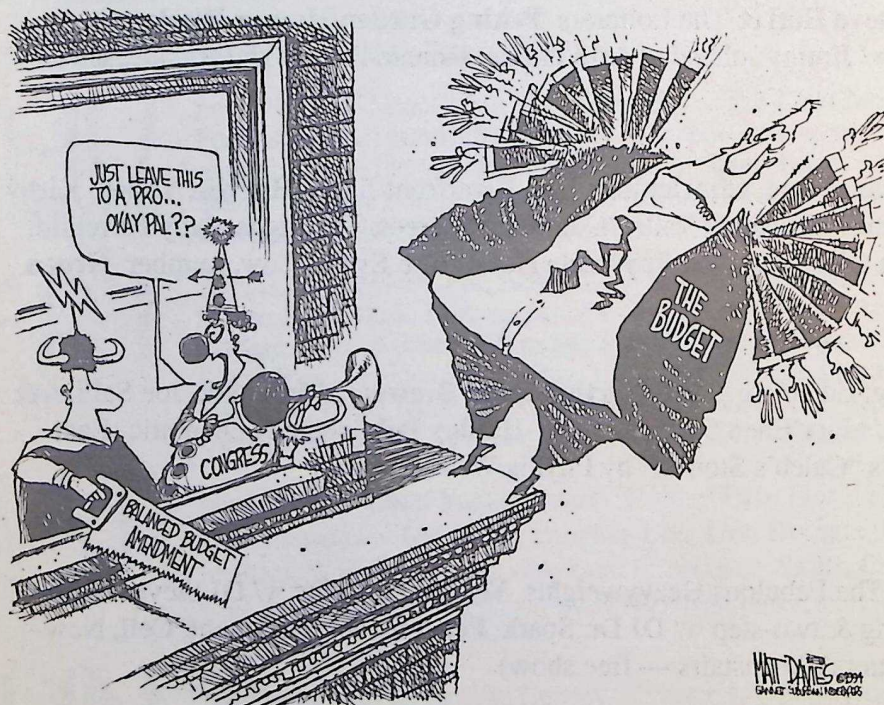
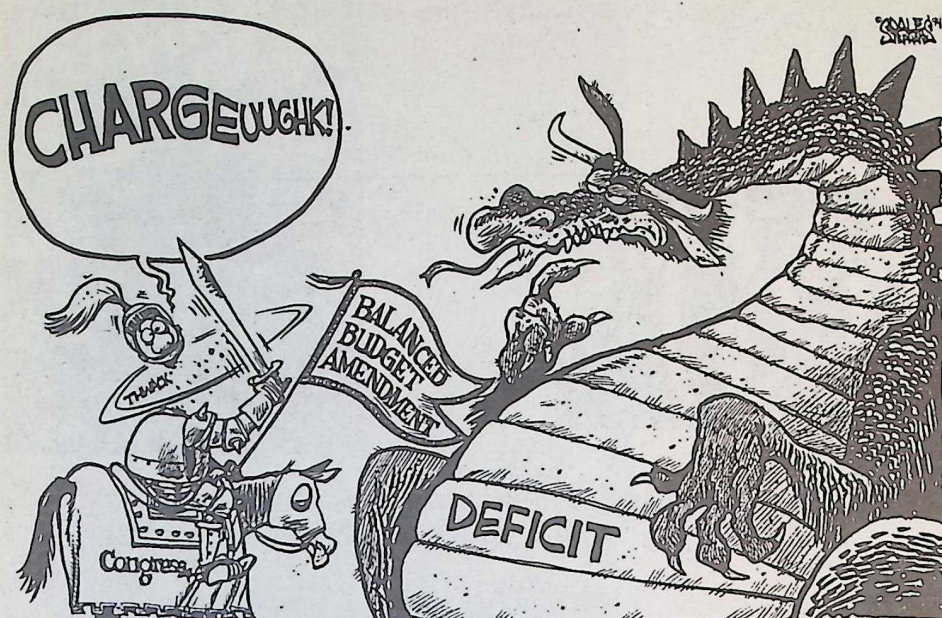
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JOE CAMEL -
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YEARS



Simon Wilson

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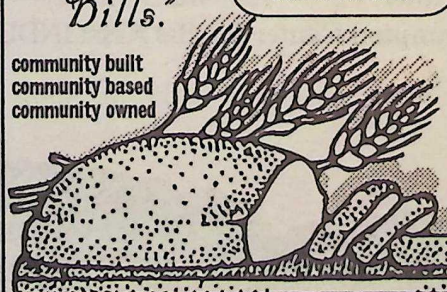
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MR. MEANER
(Metalica)

Fri., March 25 - 9:00
TEXAS FLOOD
(Stevie Ray Vaughn Tribute)

Sat., March 26
THE SIGHS
Amy Fairchild / Miss Reed

Mon., March 28
Upstairs - 8:00 - 18+
THE PAVEMENT
Cell / Storm King
Downstairs - 8:30 - 21+ FREE SHOW
ALLGOOD
The Hatters

Tues., March 29 - 7:30 - 18+
CAMERON'S WAY

Thurs., March 31 - 7:00 - 18+
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WISCONSIN



THU
TWENTYFOUR

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** The Popa Chubby Band **Hadley Pub:** new country music w/ DJ Mike Perkins
Seven O's: DJ Dance Club **Pearl Street:** Primal Scream (Mötley Crüe), Believer (Ozzy Osborne), Mr. Meaner (Metallica), plus hip-hop dance music by Spin, Inc.

FRI
TWENTYFIVE

Pearl Street: Texas Flood (Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute), plus top 40 dance music w/ DJ Lance **Bay State Hotel:** Live TV Show — Wolfgang Central **Seven O's:** Sundown **Delaney House:** LaValley Duo **Harvest Valley:** Kirby Farrell
Vertex: A & E Showcase **Green River Cafe:** Steve Hurl & The Loiterers **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic **Hadley Pub:** Big Time Band w/ Jimmy Johnson **Iron Horse:** Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters
Colrain Community Center: Amandla

SAT
TWENTYSIX

Vertex: Selectrocution **Hadley Pub:** Florida Evans Band **Charlemont Inn:** Riverfront Jump **Harvest Valley:** Kirby Farrell **Iron Horse:** Salamander Crossing **Delaney House:** LaValley Duo **Pearl Street:** The Sighs, Amy Fairchild, Miss Reed, plus Club HMP, w/ Spin, Inc. **Seven O's:** Sundown **Bay State Hotel:** Bob Evans, Low, Lumber **Green River Cafe:** Zabe i Babe

SUN
TWENTYSEVEN

Green River Cafe: Suzanne Barkan **Iron Horse:** Eddie Kirkland **Northampton Brewery:** Birthmark, Joe Sallins & Friends **Seven O's:** open mic **Charlemont Inn:** Mary Ellen Service (3pm) **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **East Street Theatre:** Playwrights-in-Progress presents "Caleb's Stones," by Phyllis Webster (3pm)

MON
TWENTYEIGHT

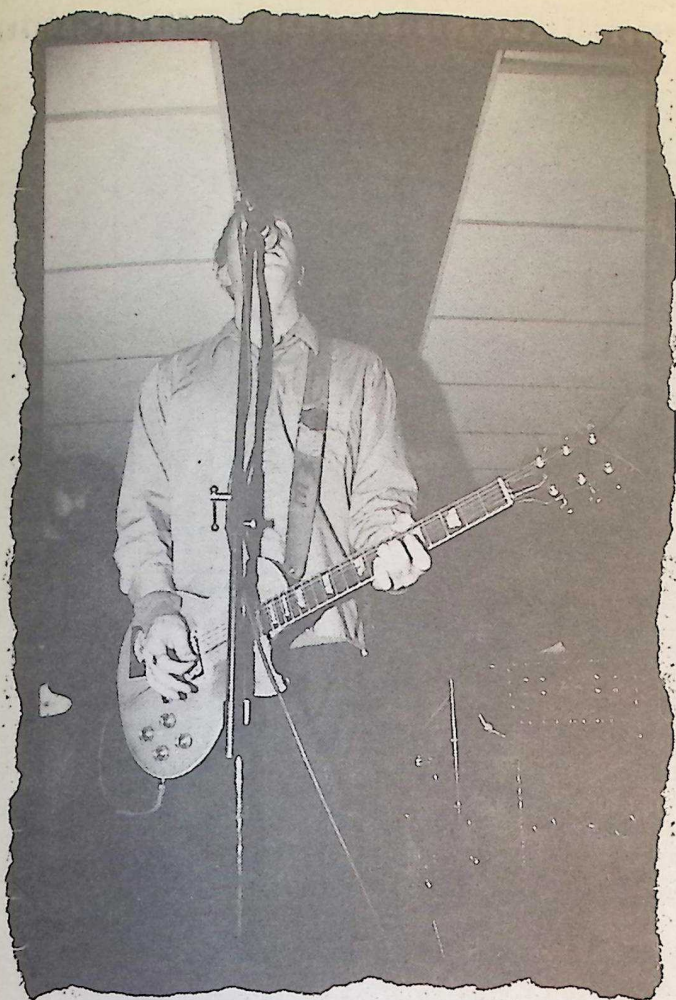
Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Vertex:** Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve **Iron Horse:** Roger McGuinn **North Star:** line dancing & two-step w/ DJ Dr. Spark **Pearl Street:** Pavement, Cell, New Radiant Storm King (upstairs); Allgood, The Hatters (downstairs — free show)

TUE
TWENTYNINE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Mark Herschler **Iron Horse:** Alejandro Escovido, Ben Harper **Hadley Pub:** Stuart's open mic **Pearl Street:** Cameron's Way

WED
THIRTY

Hadley Pub: Reggae night **Iron Horse:** TBA **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Bay State Hotel:** T2! — Tom Waits tribute — Chris O'Connor Players, special guests **Northampton Brewery:** TBA
Northampton Center for the Arts: INDEPENDENT MASSachusetts MEDIA — screenings of 5 Mass. video productions



The Veronica Cartwrights at the Bay State Tobey photo

THU
THIRTYONE

Seven O's: DJ Dance Club **Bay State Hotel:** Pre-Loud Music Festival Ball **Hadley Pub:** new country music w/ DJ Mike Perkins **UMass Hampden Theater:** Michelle Rosewoman Quintet **Pearl Street:** The Story, plus 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Art Steele Blues Band **Smith College Theatre (Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre):** Angry I Love You **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Livia Sohn, violinist; Daniel Gaisford, cello **Bay State Hotel:** Loud Music Festival — Five-Eight, Flat Duo Jets, A-Bones, Karl Hendricks Trio, Fly Ashtray, Small 23, Uncle

FRI
ONE

Wiggle, Ray Mason Band, Big Bad Bollocks, LIR, Skinner Pilot, Leika & The Cosmonauts, Speed Queen, many others **Pearl Street:** Loud Music Festival, plus Carcass, Pitch Shifter, Exhumed, plus Top 40 w/ DJ Lance **Seven O's:** Showdown **Smith College Theatre (Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre):** Angry I Love You **Iron Horse:** Loud Music Festival — Truman's Water, Royal Trux, Veronica Cartwrights, Tizzy, Dambuilders, much more **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo **Green River Cafe:** cordelia's dad **Hadley Pub:** Big Time Band w/ Jimmy Johnson **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic **Vertex:** reggae jam **UMass New World Theater:** The Revival of Black Women's Stories: One Deaf Experience

SAT
TWO

Green River Cafe: Yagottawanna **Hadley Pub:** Florida Evans Band **Bay State Hotel:** more Loud Music Festival **Seven O's:** Showdown **Delaney's:** Lavalley Duo **Iron Horse:** more Loud Music Festival **UMass New World Theater:** The Revival of Black Women's Stories: One Deaf Experience **Smith College Theatre (Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre):** Angry I Love You **Pearl Street:** more Loud Music Festival, plus Club HMP, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Black Sheep:** Zen Cats

SUN
THREE

Northampton Brewery: Lumpy, Hydrox 1-4-5 **Seven O's:** open mic **Iron Horse:** leticia — album release party **Pearl Street:** Prong, Stomp Box, Slowpoke, plus more Loud Music Festival **Bay State Hotel:** more Loud Music Festival

MON
FOUR

Vertex: Gay Nite, w/ DJ Steve **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **North Star:** line dancing & two-step w/ DJ Dr. Spark **Iron Horse:** Loup Garou **Green River Cafe:** Womyn's dance w/ DJ Devlyn, plus live set from Sidney Spinster

TUE
FIVE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Mark Herschler **Iron Horse:** Open Stage, featuring Chuck Brodsky **Hadley Pub:** Stuart's open mic **Bay State Hotel:** Frank Spencer Quartet, Falafel Boy, Gideon Freudmann **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Billy Taylor Trio & David Parsons Dance Company **Green River Cafe:** Amante Chamber Ensemble

WED
SIX

Iron Horse: The Bobs **Pearl Street:** Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Klezmir Trio **Hadley Pub:** Reggae night

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TUES 29

ALEJANDRO ESCOVIDO

THUR 31

THE ART STEELE BLUES BAND

FRI - SAT 1 & 2

LOUD MUSIC FESTIVAL '94

SUN 3

LETICIA

MON 4

LOUP GAROU

TUES 5

OPEN STAGE featuring CHUCK BRODSKY

WED - THUR 6 & 7

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Earthquakes

Iran was rocked by a second week of violent, and sometimes deadly earthquakes in various parts of the country. At least three people were killed by a magnitude 6.0 temblor near the southern town of Firuzabad. Several houses in the Sistan region were damaged by a slightly weaker quake earlier in the week.

Earth movements also were felt in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Japan's Hokkaido Island, the Southern California aftershock zone, eastern Idaho, and along the Greek-Albanian border.

Drought

Five million people in Kenya and northern Tanzania face severe food shortages from a drought and intense heat that is killing livestock and shriveling food and export crops. The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization has warned that the worst drought in 10 years threatens famine for two million people, and plans to make emergency food shipments. Kenya's vital tea and coffee export facilities are closing because of the withering crops.

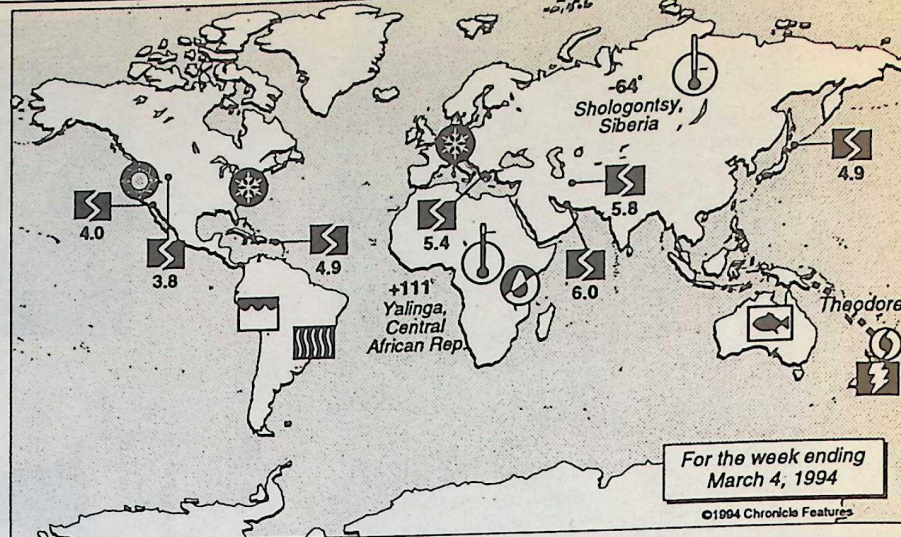
Winter Woes

Traffic accidents plagued much of northern Germany as snow, hail and freezing temperatures made motorways hazardous.

The northeastern U.S. was lashed with yet another "nor'easter" which brought some of the season's worst wintry conditions to the region.

Tropical Storm

New Caledonia and the New Hebrides were whipped with high winds and heavy seas from tropical cyclone Theodore. The storm formed off the east coast of Papua New Guinea, then dissipated to the northeast of New Zealand.



Record Heat

Residents of Rio de Janeiro suffered through the hottest February this century under a blazing summer sun. The average maximum temperature during the month reached 99 degrees, while some days the mercury rose to as high as 104. February's record heat follows the trend toward hotter summers during the past decade.

Solar Dangers

Fears of widespread ecological damage from the thinning ozone layer mounted with the discovery that frog, toad and salamander species in the Pacific Northwest are being killed by the increasing ultraviolet radiation. A finding from Oregon State University showed that the solar rays are killing the eggs of the dwindling amphibians, which have no leathery or hard shells to protect them. Once hatched, the hairless,

featherless and thin-skinned species may not be able to shield themselves from UV exposure.

Hailstorm

A violent hailstorm struck New Zealand's prime agricultural area in Hawke's Bay, destroying almost \$30 million in fruit. During the 10-minute tempest, hailstones as large as one inch in diameter pelted the ripening crop. The country's prime export apples and pears suffered the most significant losses.

Floods

Continuing heavy rains and flooding in Peru killed 50 people and left 5,500 families homeless. Damage to crops and roads was estimated at \$50 million. "We are seeing disasters in areas that are important for feeding the capital," warned Transportation Minister Dante Cordova. The Canete River overflowed its banks, cutting the Pan American Highway

and inundating cotton and vegetable fields.

Falling Fish

Small fish have been found flapping around in parking lots and on roads south of Darwin after rainstorms in Australia's desert Outback. Beryl Morris, a zoologist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, theorizes that the heavy rains trigger dry fish eggs to suddenly hatch, and then high winds or updrafts carry the newborns considerable distances. "The first time it happened last week, they were everywhere," said innkeeper Adela Liebelt. "They're only little fish, so the birds took them away." Most of the young desert fish measured between one and two inches in length.

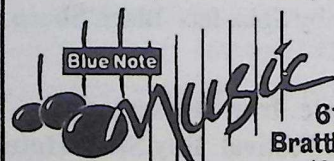
Additional Sources: Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Japan Meteorological Agency, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

SEX, DRUGS, & ROCK N' ROLL!

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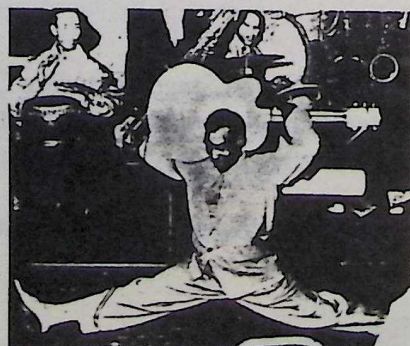
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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Floods

Two months of seemingly incessant and torrential rainfall in Peru has claimed the lives of 81 people and forced 41,000 others from their homes. The inundations also have caused extensive damage to agriculture and the nation's infrastructure. The ongoing rain has affected mainly poor people in 16 of Peru's 24 provinces, including nearly 21,000 residents of the capital, Lima. Agriculture Minister Albazon Vasquez said the destruction of 27,500 acres of farmland will drastically lower food output and force a rise in prices at the markets.

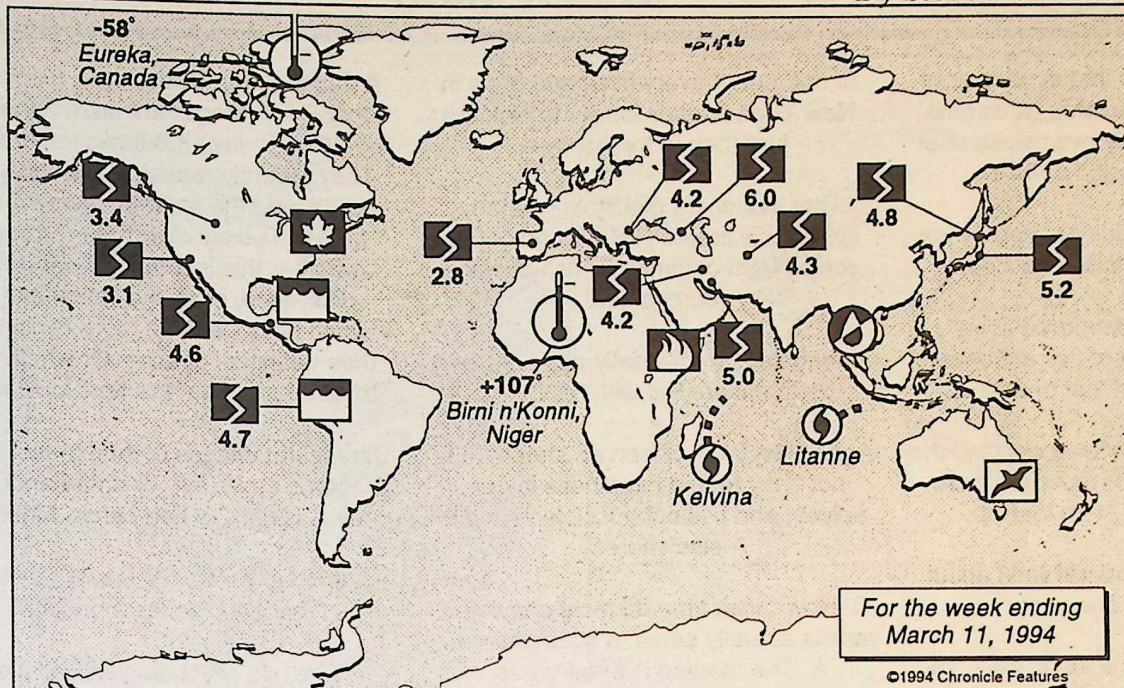
Havana residents went to work shoveling sand and mud after heavy seas flooded several streets along the Cuban capital's famed beachfront. Waves swept over parts of the seawall of the city's picturesque Malecon coastal drive, causing flooding up to three blocks away from the shore.

Silent Sap

The severe winter weather and bitter chill that has plagued much of the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada this winter has delayed the maple sugar crop from Nova Scotia to Connecticut. Sugarers require temperatures above freezing in the daytime to get the sap flowing in the trees, and below freezing at night to keep the maples from budding. When the thaw finally arrives, maple producers expect to have to work at a feverish pace to process the sudden surge of sap.

Tropical Storms

Tropical cyclone Kelvina formed northeast of Madagascar, then moved harmlessly between the island nation and neighboring Reunion. Cyclone Litanne developed and gained force over the warm, open waters of the eastern Indian Ocean.



Wildfires

Desperate Ethiopians, believing that clouds of smoke would bring an end to their drought, deliberately set wildfires that burned more than 1.5 million acres of forest in the south of the country. The blazes also destroyed standing grain crops and vegetable gardens as well as a large number of domestic animals and wildlife. Four people searching for food died in the fires which razed more than 100 thatch-roofed homes.

Earthquakes

Further tremors rumbled across western and southern parts of quake-weary Iran. Last month the country suffered a severe temblor that killed six people and wrecked scores of homes. In Southern California, there was another significant aftershock of the disastrous January 17 Northridge earthquake.

Earth movements also were felt in northern Japan's Okushiri Island, eastern Japan, Spain, southeastern Romania, central Peru, Guatemala, northeastern Afghanistan, the republic of Georgia, and eastern Idaho.

Drought

Residents of Thailand's capital have been warned to store fresh water because their taps may soon run dry. An extended drought over much of the country has brought many rivers and streams to dangerously low levels, including the Chao Phraya which flows through Bangkok. Officials fear that salt water now flowing up the Chao Phraya from the Gulf of Thailand could reach the capital, causing an environmental disaster and polluting the primary fresh water supply for millions of people. Farmers along the lower stretches of the river are already losing crops due to the salt water intrusion.

Avian Assassin

Sydney authorities are looking for what appears to be a professional hitman they believe has poisoned more than 300 pigeons in Australia's largest city. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals believes the killings are the work of one or more professionals. Startled commuters discovered the dead birds littering the city's streets in Belmore Park near the main railway station, and again in a plaza opposite St. Andrew's Cathedral. The birds were fed the highly toxic and restricted poison Phosdrin baited with a mixture of bread and bran. The chemical attacks the respiratory system, causing the birds suffer severe convulsions before dying.

Additional Sources: Meteo Mauritius, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Environment Canada, Meteorological Services of Madagascar, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Ornithologists say that every pair of penguins consummates its lifetime commitment exactly two weeks after they begin their courtship.

Your "pipkin" — odds are you've got one — is your smallest saucepan.

The motion sickness occasionally suffered by two out of five astronauts has been labeled "astronausea."

In the days when trolley cars ruled the streets, newspaper reporters were allowed to ride them for free.

A pound of fine wool will yield about 20 miles of fine yarn.

An ancient Greek law made it a crime to stay sober during the annual festival of Dionysus. Failure to get drunk was seen as an affront to the god.

Q. How is time kept at the North Pole?
A. Officially, it isn't. Travelers to the Pole observe the times of their arrivals and departures.

North America's tallest bird is the whooping crane, which stands in at about 5 feet tall.

In one out of every five court trials in New York, it takes longer to pick the jury than to try the case.

That iridescent quality in so many lipsticks is created by a blend of fish scales from commercial fish-packing companies.

Indonesians traditionally point not with the forefinger but with the thumb.

Agnes Repplier, observer, states: "It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere."

Q. How much time do most convicted rapists actually serve in state prisons?
A. The median is three years.

It's not unusual for a typical South African to garnish a hamburger with bananas and bacon.

Alfred Hitchcock decreed: "The length of the film should be related to the endurance of the human bladder."

There are now said to be more than 3,000 inherited diseases.

A decade ago, statisticians reported that the average American female would fall in love 4.8 times in her life. They recently repeated the survey, and found the average is now 3.2 times. The surveyors don't know whether this is a margin-of-error difference, or an indication that women have become more cynical in their definition of love. Or whether they're spending less time looking.

Ultrasound images of thumb-sucking preborns prove left- or right-handedness is established before birth.

Victor Hugo wrote, "Whoever opens a school door closes a prison."

Q. What do psychologists call that phenomenon that makes some people drunk when they think they've been drinking liquor, even if no liquor was in their drinks?

A. That's called an "Expectancy Effect."

In the United States, the average man gets a haircut every 20 days.

Scientists now say homosexuality has been documented in sea gulls.

Q. L. Frank Baum invented the land of Oz. Where'd he get that name for it?

A. From a label on his file cabinet drawer: O-Z.

That wind deflector mounted over the cabs of some 18-wheelers is called a "varashield."

The honey possum of Australia is the only mammal that lives exclusively on nectar.

Women are flocking to Protestant theological schools. In one major school, seven out of ten candidates for the Master of Divinity degree are women.

Any New York divorce lawyer who has an affair with a client is breaking that state's law.

The ocean floor covers nearly two-thirds of the earth's surface, but only about one percent of it has been explored.

Occult observances were considered heresy in the Roman Catholic Church of 1503. Still, Pope Julius consulted his astrologers to set the time of his coronation that year.

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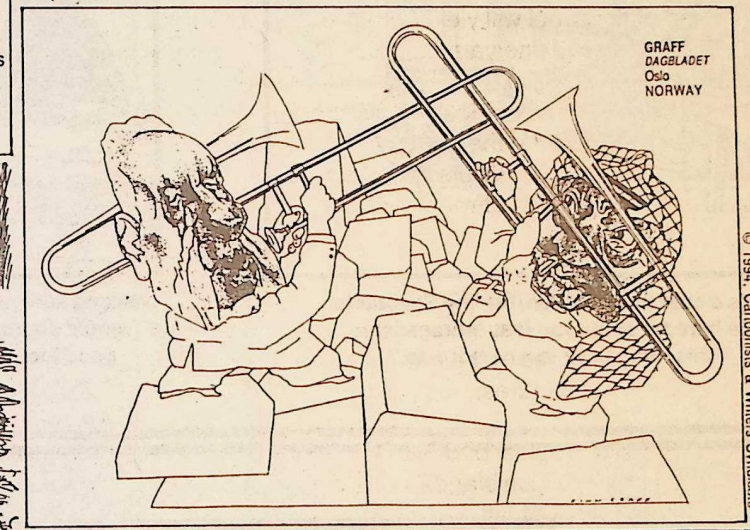
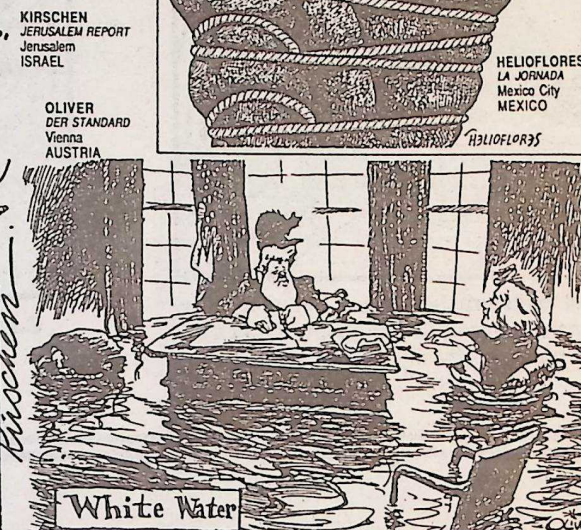
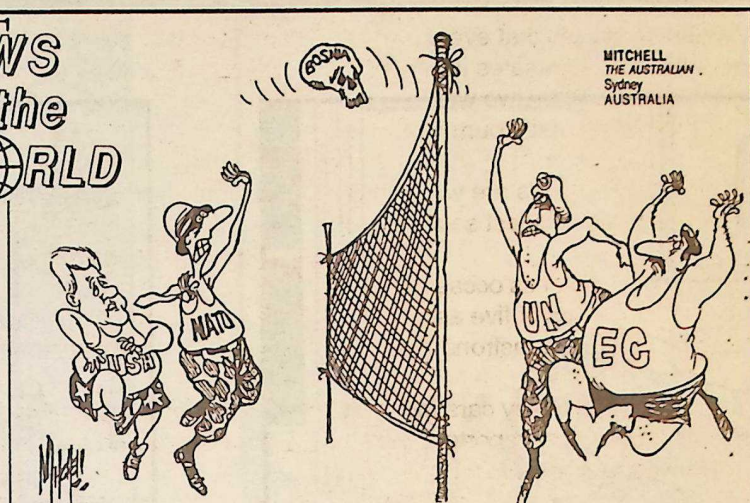
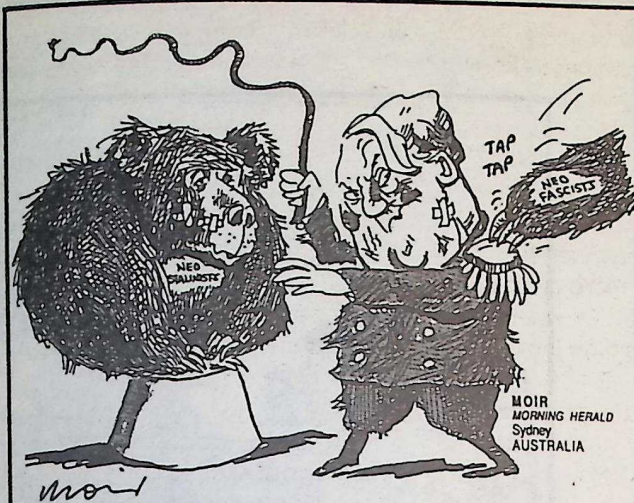
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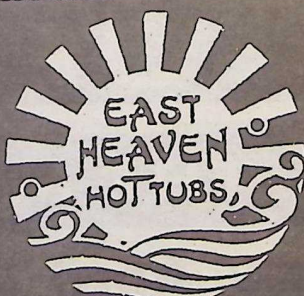
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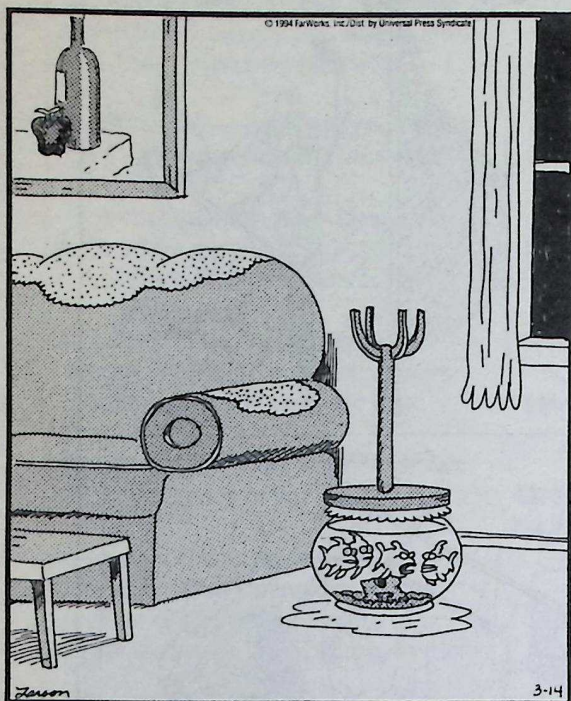
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THE FAR SIDE

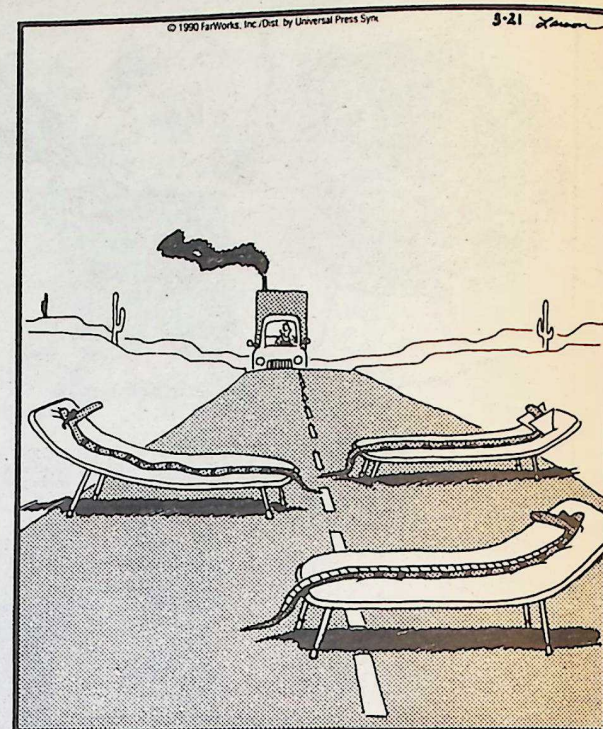
BY GARY LARSON



"It's a cute trick, Warren, but the Schuberts are here for dinner, so just 'abracadabra' this thing back to where it was."



Making sure not to disturb their quarry, nature lovers would approach the glass slowly, hoping to get a good look at the normally shy dessert animals.



Gus saw them when he crested the hill: snakes. Three of them, basking on the road. Probably diamondbacks.



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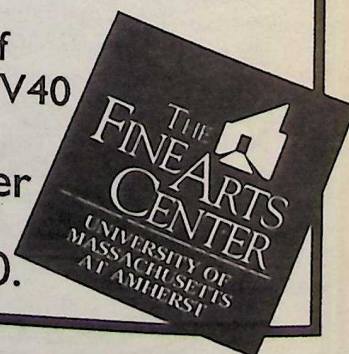


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"Ok, Johnson — we've got a deal. We'll let your people and my people work out the details."



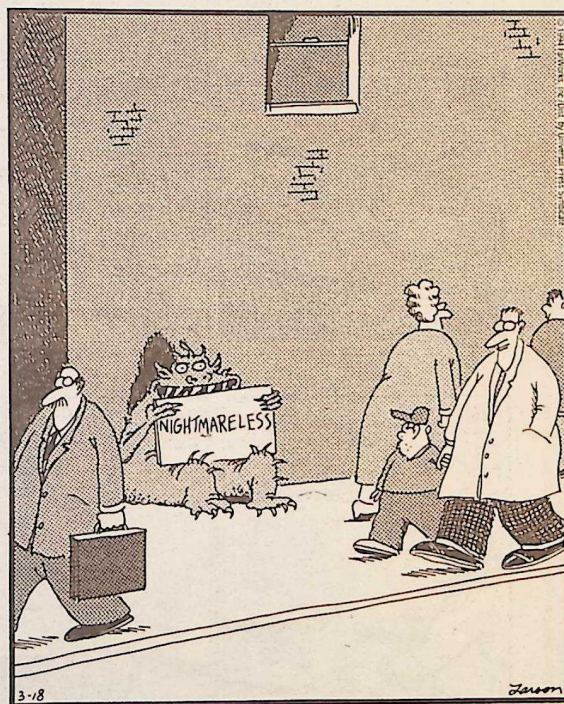
Primitive mail fraud



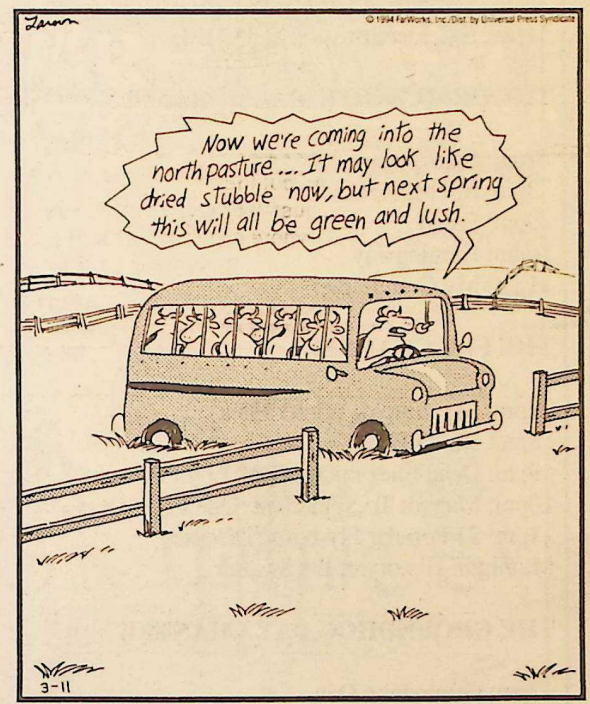
The Sandwich Mafia sends Luigi to "sleep with the fourth-graders."



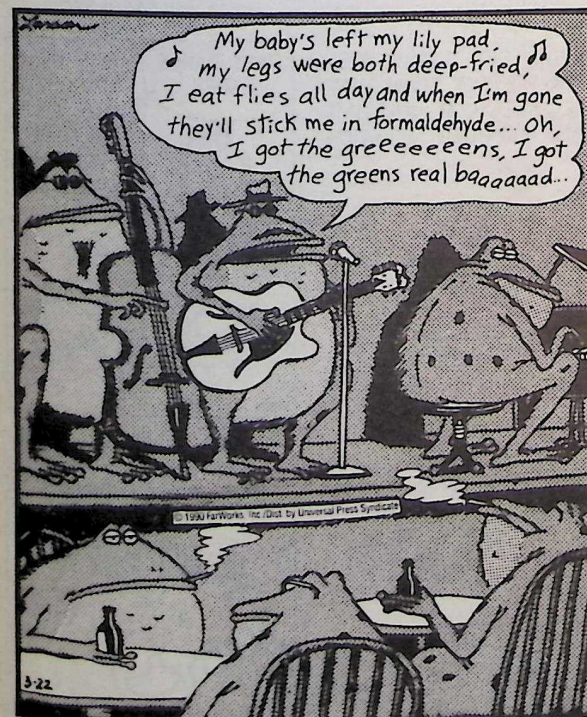
"I'm sorry, Sidney, but I can no longer help you. ... These are not my people."



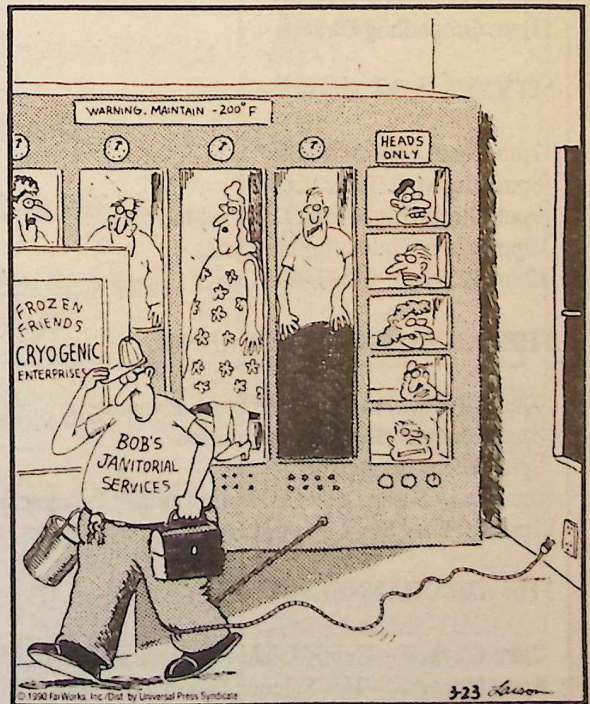
Not heeding his father's advice to avoid eye contact, Joey makes a "contribution."



Basic field trips



"Henry! Our party's total chaos! No one knows when to eat, where to stand, what to ... Oh, thank God! Here comes a border collie!"



THIS EVENING'S CABLE HIGHLIGHTS

by MC Xman

THE TOPOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

6pm: Slopes
7pm: Inclines
8pm: Drop-offs
9pm: Swamps
10pm: Ridges vs. Rills (One Man's Odyssey)
11pm: Sea Level — What's The Big Deal?
Midnight: True North vs. Magnetic North — When Will The Fighting Stop?

THE ROADKILL CHANNEL

6pm: Possums
7pm: Raccoons
8pm: Skunks
9pm: Domestic Animals
10pm: DPW Presents: Annual Mr. Roadkill Pickup Award
11pm: E-Z Identification at 55 MPH

THE DEAD WHITE MALE CHANNEL

7pm: Shakespeare
8pm: Michelangelo
9pm: Freud
10pm: Hemingway
11pm: My Grandfather

THE FLY CHANNEL

7pm: Big, Stupid, Winter Flies
8pm: Biting Flies
9pm: Dead Flies in Overhead Light Fixtures
10pm: Maggot To Spiderbait: One Fly's Story
11pm: 21 Popular Fly-borne Diseases
Midnight: History of the Swatter

THE GROUNDHOG DAY CHANNEL

7pm: Groundhog Day
8pm: Groundhog Day
9pm: Groundhog Day
10pm: Groundhog Day
11pm: Groundhog Day

MTV

7pm: Nearly Naked Babes
8pm: Hunks & Their Pecs
9pm: Strobe Lights and Dry Ice Machines
10pm-12am: Unintelligible Lyrics
12am-12:04am: Intelligible Lyrics

THE COUCH POTATO CHANNEL

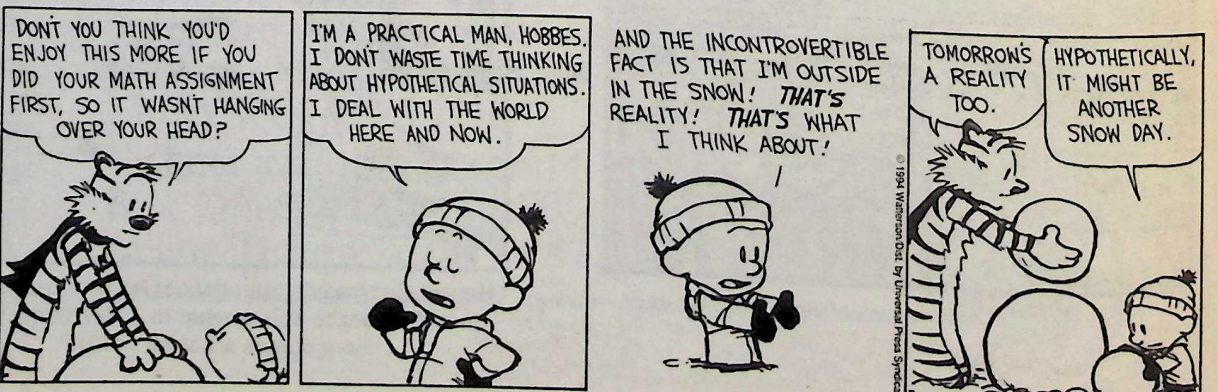
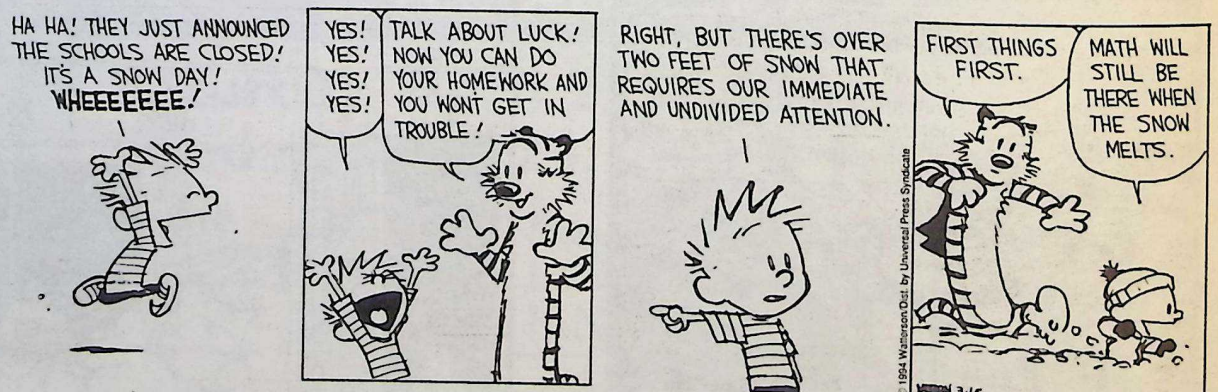
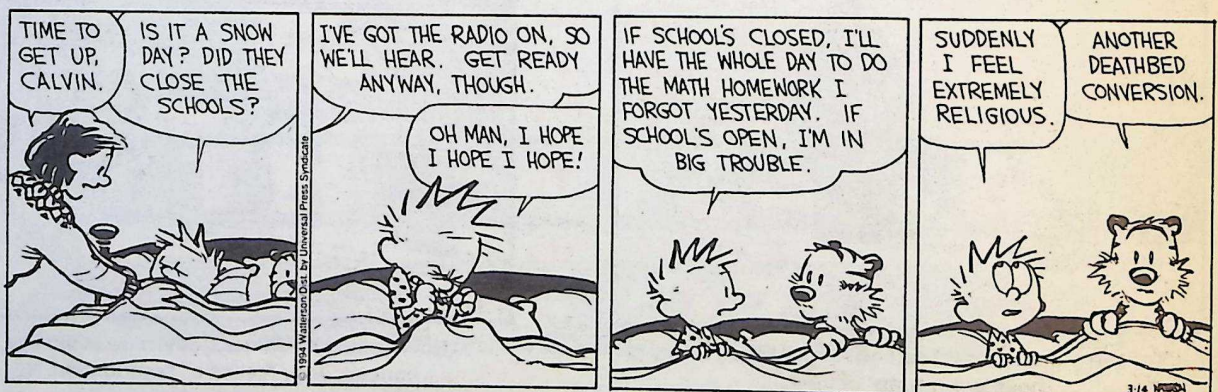
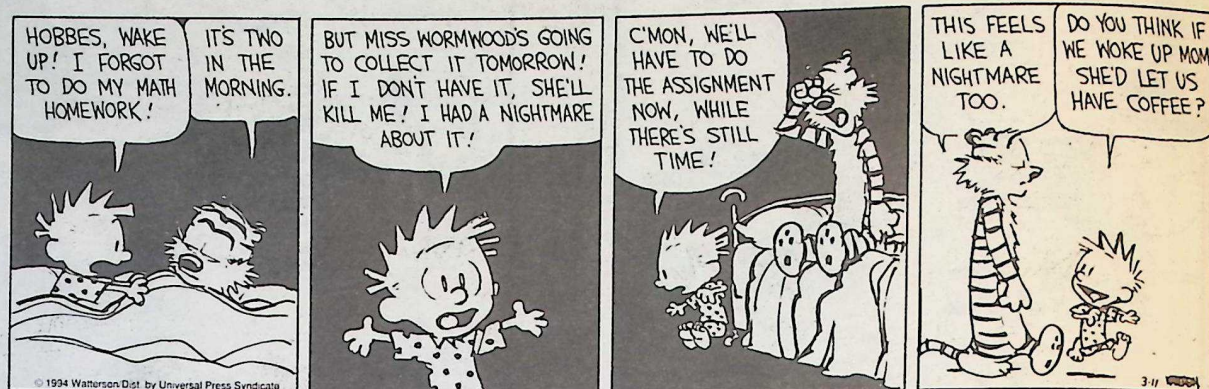
7pm: 24 Hours in a Recliner (true adventure)
8pm: Channel-Surfing Competition
9pm: The Popcorn Chef
10pm: Lazy Susans You Can Build During Commercials
11pm: 10 Easy Steps Toward Ordering Faster Pizza

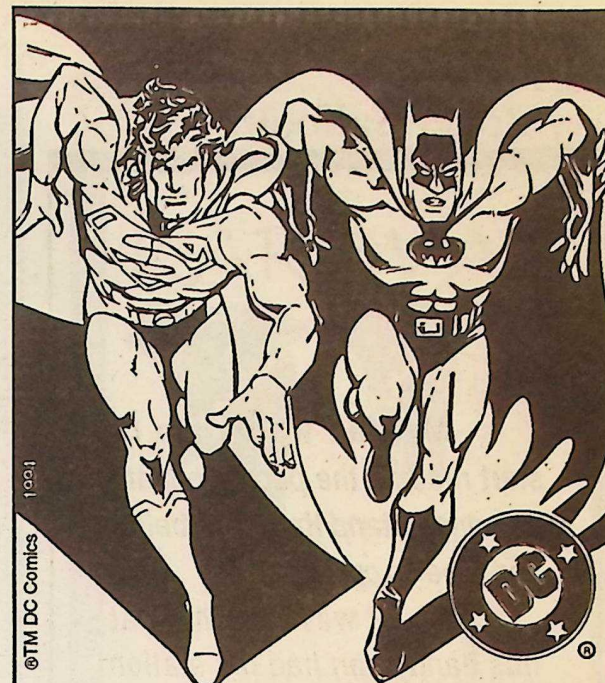
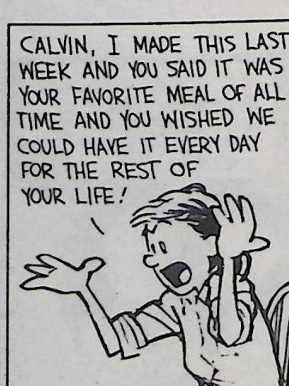
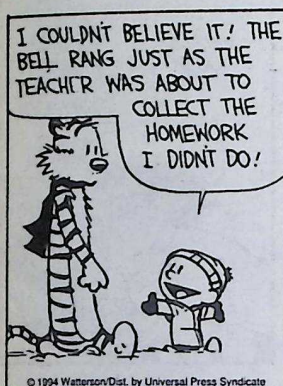
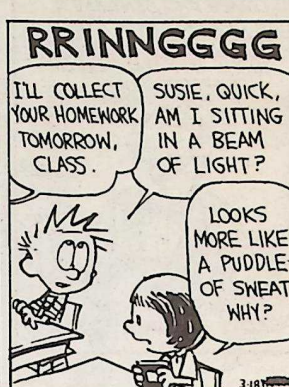
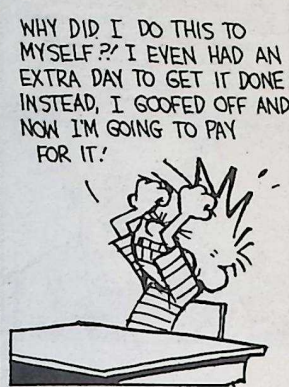
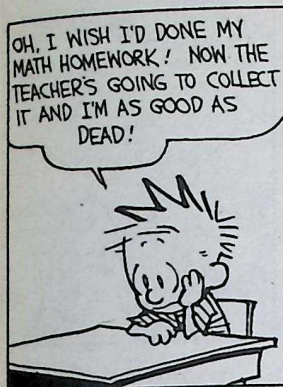
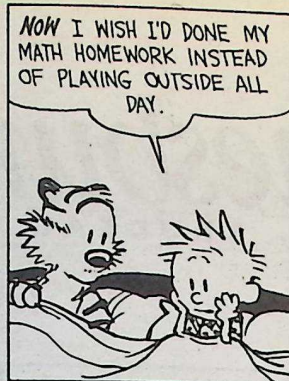
THE AIR CHANNEL

7pm: Oxygen -- Gentle Giant or Explosive Fiend?
8pm: Nitrogen -- Has Science Found a Substitute?
9pm: CO₂ -- Carbon Monoxide Plus One
10pm: Argon -- Sure It's Inert, But It Can Kill!
11pm: Particulate Patterns You Can Crochet

calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATKINSON



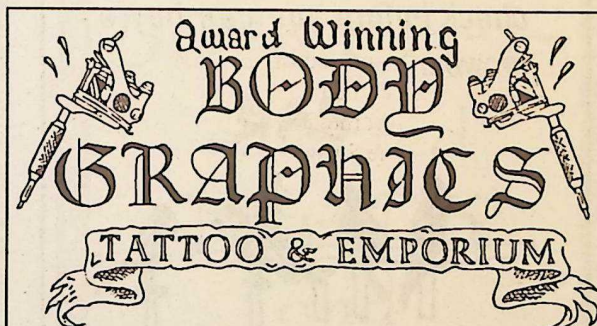


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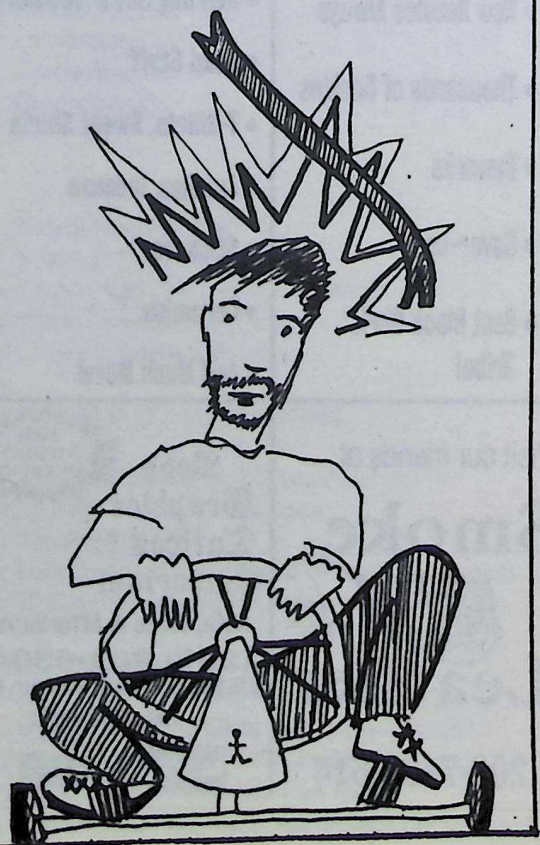
My dad wants me to start reading the paper so that I can understand the world better and develop opinions.

So, I was reading that this handyman had his station wagon packed with tools. He stopped fast and this crowbar comes flying forward and goes right into his head.

He drives himself to the hospital.....with a headache.... they take it out and he's alive and well.....

There should be a 5 day waiting period and background check before you can buy a crowbar.

BAR



Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

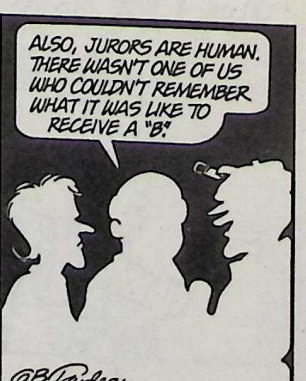
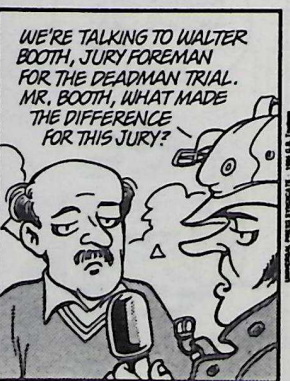
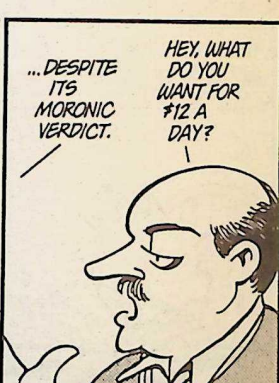
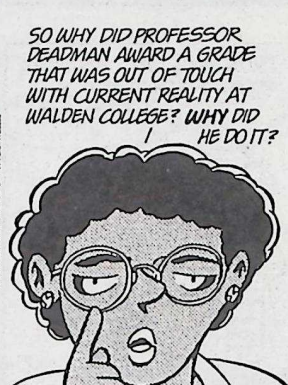
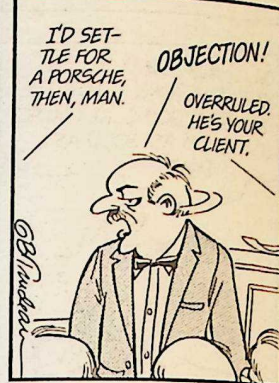
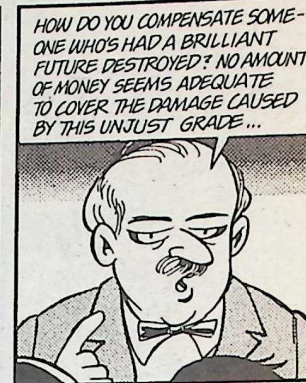
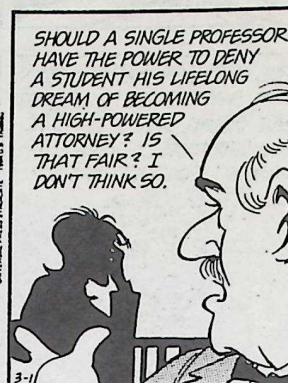
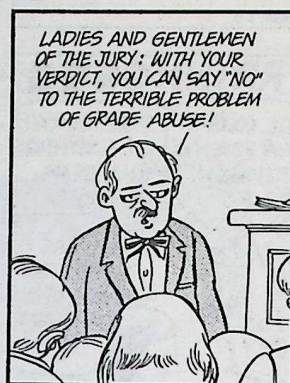
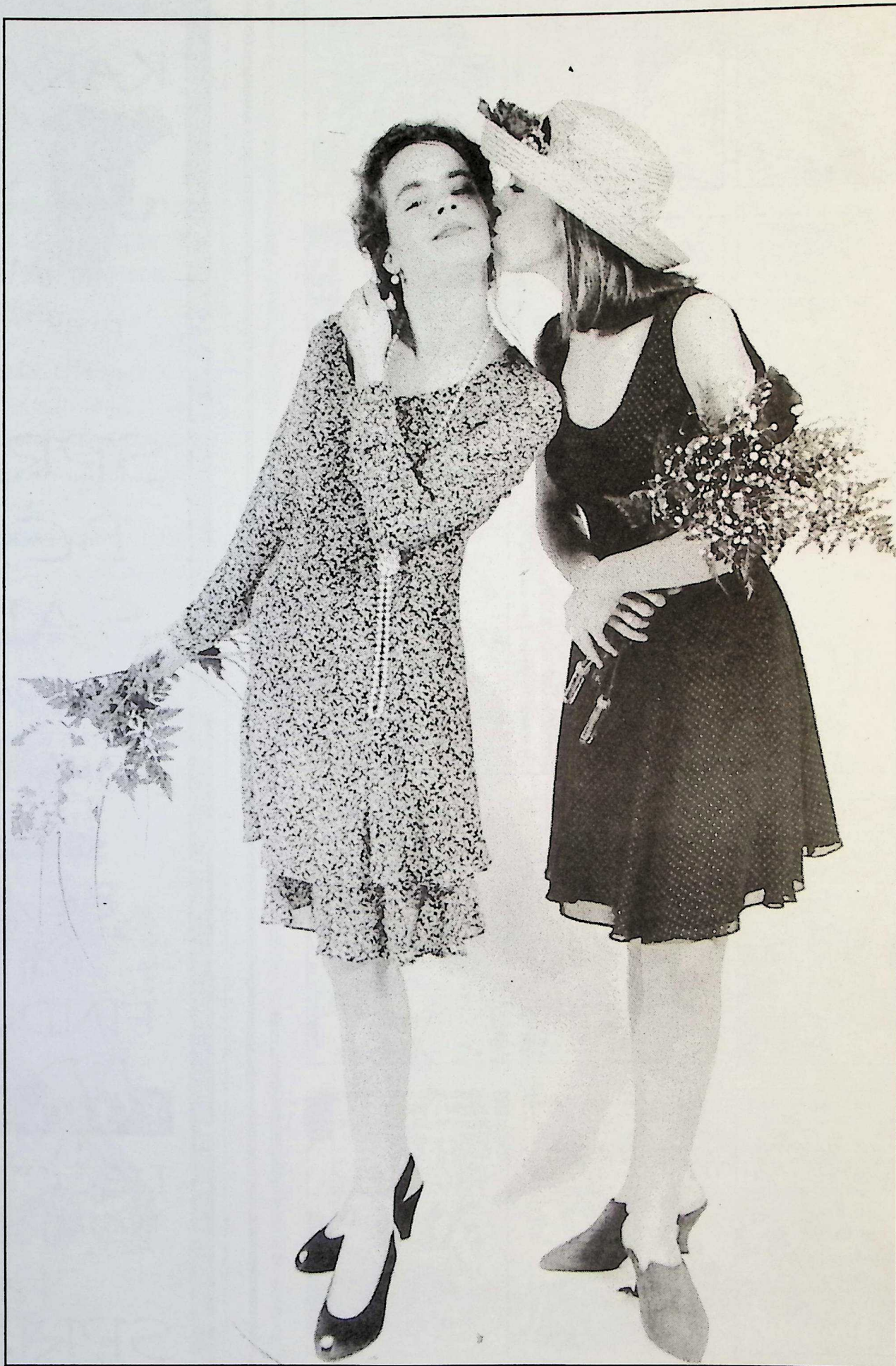


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